(c) what is the basis on which the original red-colour of Ashok Hotel was changed into white and the amount of money the Corporation had to spend at that time and in subsequent years for maintaining the white colour of the hotel; and

(d) what are the reasons for frequent changes in the colours of Ashok Hotel and whether responsibility will be fixed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The expenditure is estimated at Rs. 10.7 lakhs and is a part of normal renovation which would have been spent even to give a white coat.

(c) At the time of Non-Aligned Meet and CHOGM in 1983, substantial renovations were carried out in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi including painting of exterior facade in white colour. The cost on re-doing the exterior facade was Rs. 1.86 lakhs. In 1987 the same colour was repainted at a cost of Rs. 6.97 lakhs.

(d) In order to maintain conformity with the ambiance of hitorical public buildings at New Delhi, and to restore the original facade of Ashok hotel, it has been decided to revert to its original red-sand stone biscuit colours.

Waisting Lists for LPG Connections

19. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of new LPG connections that are proposed to be released in the year 1991-92 in the country; and

(b) what is the number of applications in the waiting lists for new LPG connections in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) 5 lakhs.

(b) Around 70 lakhs.

Oil Reserves in West Bengal and Gujarat

20. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the Financial Express, New Delhi on the 12th August, 1991 to the effect that India is sitting on two huge oil reservoirs in West Bengal and Gujarat which can make it a crude exporting country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for not tapping the same so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The news reports is speculative and not based on facts.

Shortfall in supply of coal

21. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the loss and profit position of Coal India during last 3 years;

(b) whether coal is supplied as per the requirement of power plants, cement plants and other industries;

(c) what are the reasons for shortfall in supplies;

(d) whether it is a fact that colliery managements are indulging in reckless resort to opencast mining rather than

deep shaft mining and incline mining; and

(e) what is the total investment made after nationalisation for modernisation in coal mines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) During the last 3 years the profit earned/loss suffered by Coal India Limited, was as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Profit earned/loss suffered (+)=Profit (—)=Loss
1988-89	(—) 23·26
1989-90	(+) 80·13
1990-91	Accounts are being finalised

(b) and (c) Coal is being supplied to core sectors like power, cement etc. on a higher priority. Because of more coal being made available to core sectors, there have been some shortfalls in supply to industrial consumers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) According to information received from Coal India Limited investment of approximately Rs. 9508 crores has been made on coal mines including modernisation, after nationalisation.

Stock of coal at pit heads

22. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pit head stock of coal are going up over the years, if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) what is the present stock of coal at pit heads in terms of quantity and value and the stock at the end of three preceding years; and

(c) what are the plans drawn by Government, if the stocks are more than the optimum level at which these pit head stocks should be maintained and the steps taken to reduce these stocks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) The pit-head stocks of coal have been going up over the years because o fincrease in mining activities as also difficulties in evacuating all the coal that is mined.

(b) The present pit-head stocks of coal, as per the provisional figures provided by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) are 33.797 million tonnes (on 31-7-91). Taking the average pit-head price of CIL coal as Rs. 249 per tonne, and SCCL coal as Rs. 297 per tonne, the total value of the current pit-head stocks is approximately Rs. 843.2 crores. The pit-head stocks of CIL and SCCL at the end of three preceding years were as follows:—

(Million tonnes)

	CIL	SCCL
31-3-91	41·88	0·730
31-3-90	36·63	0·579
31-3-89	33·09	0·497

(c) Coal Companies have been advised to maximine despatches so that the